REMARKS

In the Office Action[1], the Examiner rejected claims 1-15 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Seidl (U.S. Patent No. 5,583,977) in view of Kato et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,297,795).

By this Amendment, Applicants amend the specification, amend claims 1-12, cancel claims 13-15, and add claims 16-18. Claims 1-12 and 16-18 are pending. Of these claims, claims 1-3, 7-9, and 16-18 are independent.

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection of claims 1-15 under 35 U.S. C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Seidl in view of Kato. Independent claims 1-3, 7-9, and 16-18 patentably distinguish over Seidl and Kato at least for the reasons set forth below.

Amended independent claims 1-3 recite a three-dimensional object manipulating apparatus comprising, among other things, a detection means for detecting a direction and an angle of rotation of a dial, the dial being movable between a first position and a second position, the first position locking the rotation of the dial and the second position unlocking the rotation of the dial.

Amended independent claims 7-9 recite a three-dimensional object manipulating method including a system comprising a display unit, a data processor, and a dial-operated input device having a dial which can be pushed in and rotated, the method comprising the steps of, among other steps, detecting a direction and an angle of rotation of the dial, the dial being movable between a first position and a second

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[1] The Office Action contains characterizations of the claims and the related art with which Applicants do not necessarily agree. Unless expressly noted otherwise, Applicants decline to subscribe to any statement or characterization in the Office Action.

position, the first position locking the rotation of the dial and the second position unlocking the rotation of the dial.

New independent claims 16-18 recite a computer-implemented program for causing a system to execute a three-dimensional object manipulating method, the method comprising the steps of, among other steps, detecting a direction and an angle of rotation of a dial, the dial being movable between a first position and a second position, the first position locking the rotation of the dial and the second position unlocking the rotation of the dial.

Seidl discloses an object-oriented curve manipulation system for "direct manipulation of [a] 3D object, which manipulation generally comprises moving, scaling, or rotating the object . . ." (*Seidl*, col. 6, ll. 17-18). "[W]hen a 3D object displayed on a visual display of a computer system is selected by the user, a 3D "virtual box" or "bounding box" appears on the visual display . . ." (*Id.* at col. 6, ll. 1-4). As illustrated in FIG. 4, the bounding box with active zones 401 shows the manipulations possible by clicking and dragging in the various active zones. (*Id.* at col. 8, ll. 1-3).

As admitted by the Examiner, *Seidl* does not disclose "pushing and rotating modes of a dial-operated input device." (*Office Action*, p. 3, ll. 3-4). In addition, *Seidl* fails to teach or suggest a detection means for detecting a direction and an angle of rotation of a dial, the dial being movable between a first position and a second position, the first position locking the rotation of the dial and the second position unlocking the rotation of the dial.

To cure the deficiencies of *Seidl*, the Examiner relies on *Kato* for its asserted disclosure of "an object being displayed on the screen that is manipulated [by a]

-13-

pressing operation and [a] rotating operation by a rotary switch 12 . . ." (*Office Action*, p. 3, ll. 5-7).

Kato discloses a small information processing apparatus including a rotary switch 12. "The available manipulations using the rotary switch 12 are 'rotation', 'pressing', 'continuous pressing', and 'pressing and rotation'. When these manipulations are utilized, a pointing device, such as a mouse, can be emulated . . ." (*Kato*, col. 8, line 66 - col. 9, line 3).

Kato, however, is silent as to a detection means for detecting a direction and an angle of rotation of a dial, the dial being movable between a <u>first position</u> and a <u>second position</u>, the first position <u>locking</u> the rotation of the dial and the second position <u>unlocking</u> the rotation of the dial.

Accordingly, *Seidl* and *Kato*, even if combined as suggested by the Examiner, fail to teach or suggest the claimed combination, including "a detection means for detecting a direction and an angle of rotation of a dial, the dial being movable between a first position and a second position, the first position locking the rotation of the dial and the second position unlocking the rotation of the dial," as recited in claims 1-3; and "detecting a direction and an angle of rotation of the dial, the dial being movable between a first position and a second position, the first position locking the rotation of the dial and the second position unlocking the rotation of the dial," as recited in claims 7-9 and 16-18. Consequently, independent claims 1-3, 7-9, and 16-18, and corresponding dependent claims 4-6 and 10-12, are patentable over *Seidl* and *Kato*. Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of claims 1-15 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) be withdrawn.
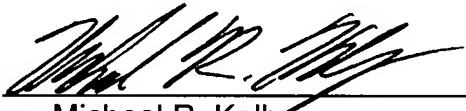
Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1-12 and 16-18 are in condition for allowance. Applicants therefore request reconsideration of the application, and the timely allowance of the pending claims.

Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this response and charge any additional required fees to our deposit account 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: April 12, 2007   By:

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